

# The Weekly Chieftain.

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## GOVERNOR CALLS BENEDICT'S HAND

Issues Open Letter Following Charge That He Violated Pledges.

Guthrie, Okla., July 20.—Governor Charles N. Haskell today sent the following open letter to Omer K. Benedict, editor of the Times at Oklahoma City, in which he takes issue regarding certain statements made in the Times concerning a violation of his campaign pledges:

"Sir—I have just this minute noticed in your paper that you have decided to try to earn the fifty dollars in gold offered by the New State Tribune to you or anybody else who point out a single instance wherein C. N. Haskell, as governor, has acted contrary to any of his campaign pledges or speeches. You select the case pending in the court here at Guthrie against the Prairie Oil and Gas company relating to an oil pipe line, and say you will leave the question to W. J. Bryan.

"We accept your offer to treat the position of the governor in this case as deciding the question as to whether you have earned the fifty dollars or whether you have earned the title of an infamous liar in your frequent statements that Haskell has not kept his kept his campaign pledges.

"Of course, your wanting to go to Nebraska to find a referee is simply some of your ordinary slush, and therefore, while accepting the question at issue, we will have a referee at home within our state and as the case is already pending in court, we will take the final adjudication of the courts as deciding the question. If Haskell's position in this case violates his campaign speeches and pledges, you get the fifty dollars in gold; if the decision is in favor of Haskell's position, then you do not get the gold, but stand as a confessed liar before the people of this state. Do you accept these terms?

"Respectfully,  
New State Tribune Company.  
By C. N. Haskell, Editor."

## GOVERNOR JOHNSON

Distinguished Minnesota Reformer Thrills Audience at Chautauqua

One of the many good things—indeed if not the best thing the Chautauqua has brought this year, was the short address of Governor John A. Johnson last Saturday morning. Johnson has made for himself a place among the nation's foremost statesmen and reformers, and the fact that he comes from a state that does not grow democrats indigenously, and that he has carried it time and again proves his great strength.

His chautauqua subject is the "Majesty of the law", and he proves to be platform speaker of power, and his short speech was a literary treat. He was driven from the 10:07 train directly to the chautauqua tent and was introduced by Seymour Riddle, and plunged immediately into his subject.

The governor's address was not a partisan one but he could not refrain from preaching some good democratic doctrine. He declared the strongest fortress of the people was personal patriotism. If Johnson ever comes to Vinita again he will have an audience that no building in town will hold.

Seymour Jones and wife have returned from a trip to California.

The McClellan house recently moved from lot sold to congregational church is for rent. See D. M. Marrs.

Dr. J. W. Craig is state physician for the Woodmen, an honor worthily bestowed.

## THE REMOVAL OF RESTRICTIONS

The act of congress generally known as the Restrictions Removal Bill and which goes into effect next Monday morning opens the way for the sale and purchase by homebuilders of more than eight millions acres of the finest agricultural land in the world. That portion of this state known as the Indian territory, the lands owned by the five Indian tribes is not surpassed on the habitable globe.

Thousands of homeseekers have hitherto passed through this portion of the state being afraid to purchase these lands, there being a widespread and general distrust of what are known as Indian titles.

The restrictions bill that was signed by the president to go into effect July 27 will have the effect to forever settle the question of doubt and to quiet the title to this vast domain of rich agricultural land.

The intending purchaser may now feel secure in having the best possible title to his home when he buys these lands.

Vinita is the center of the very best part of eastern Oklahoma, being in the middle of the wonderfully fertile slope from the Kansas line to the Arkansas river. Well watered, higher and health-

ier than other portions of the state it offers superior opportunities for the man who wants to get hold of a good piece of land.

In framing the laws of the state of Oklahoma it has been the desire to profit by the history and experience of the older states, so that this new 46th star on Uncle Sam's flag may offer a system of laws which does not comprehend the defects existing in the older states.

### Average Rain Fall.

The U. S. weather bureau, in its report from the Muskogee observation covering a period of eighteen years, reports the precipitation 34.65 inches, or about the same as that of Illinois, Indiana and Ohio. Three fourths of this precipitation falls during the growing season, from March 1st to September 30th.

### Altitude.

The average altitude of the eastern portion of the state is about 700 feet above sea level.

### Water.

Good drinking water is available at a depth ranging from 20 to 30 feet. Where it is necessary to go deeper than twenty feet the wells are usually drilled. The cost of drilling, including casing, is 75 cents per foot. The

well water on prairies is found in either sand or lime stone and is free from alkali. The ridge land is generally supplied with springs.

### General Climatic Conditions.

The climate is equable, with mild open winter, the temperature seldom reaches zero. While the temperature reaches a high point during the summer, there is a freedom from humidity and this condition, with the prevailing south wind, makes the summers endurable and the nights invariably cool. The growing season is from March 1, to October 1. The following table will show the season of planting and harvesting a few of the staple crops.

### Preparation of Soil.

	Begins	Ends
Corn	Mar. 1	Mar. 15
Cotton	Feb. 10	Mar. 15
Wheat	July 15	Sep. 15
Oats	Mar. 1	Mar. 15
Alfalfa	Feb. 15	Oct. 1
Potatoes	Feb. 15	Mar. 1

### Planting.

Corn	Mar. 15	May 15
Cotton	Mar. 15	June 1
Wheat	Sep. 1	Oct. 15
Oats	Mar. 1	Mar. 15
Alfalfa		Oct. 1
Potatoes	Mar. 1	June 1

### Harvest.

Corn	Sep. 15	Nov. 15
Cotton		Oct. 1
Wheat		June 15
Alfalfa		3 crops
Potatoes	June-Sep.	—2 crops

### Churches and Schools.

There is scarcely a community in the eastern part of the state where farmers cannot have the advantages of churches and free schools. As soon as the provisions of the state laws of Oklahoma can be put in operation a splendid system of schools will be established.

### Rate of Taxation.

The Oklahoma state constitution provides for a maximum rate for all purposes of thirty-one mills. The tax on land will however, not exceed twenty mills on the assessed valuation.

### Approximate Price.

A general average price may be taken in the several nations embracing what was formerly Indian Territory, as follows:

Number one, prairie land, raw, \$12.00 to \$25.00 per acre; improved land \$25.00 to \$40.00; rough land, suitable for fruit growing and grazing, \$3.00 to \$10.00 per acre. In the latter class much of the land available at the prices mentioned is of a sandy loam and can be used for agricultural purposes.

## SELL OR NOT SELL SCHOOL LANDS

Oklahoma is Confronted by a \$30,000,000 Proposition.

Guthrie, Okla., July, 21—Aside from the national campaign, the overshadowing issue in the Oklahoma election next fall will be the question of selling school lands. Upon the ballots will be submitted the question: Shall the school lands of Oklahoma be sold according to the terms of the Murray bill? Yes or No. This is an issue that is vital to every voter in the state, for it means the disposal of an area valued at something over \$30,000,000.

Already a state-wide movement has been started to defeat the bill at the polls by a number of the representative citizens of Western Oklahoma, headed by George Whitehurst of Sayre, who was Democratic caucus leader in the lower house of the last legislature. A meeting has been called for Oklahoma City, on August 15, to organize the movement.

The opponents of the sale of the school lands claim that most of the voters on the East side of the state will vote against the Murray bill which is to be submitted to a referendum vote. They claim that attempts to dispose of the \$5,000,000 cash fund donated to the state by congress have proven the wisdom of their contention that the school wealth should remain in lands and not be converted into money.

The intention was to loan a large part of the \$5,000,000 to farmers on farm securities. About \$1,000,000 of the fund has been disposed of in this way, but it is only a drop in the bucket compared with the demand for 5 per cent interest. Only a few farmers in each county have succeeded in getting these loans while others are compelled to pay 8 and 10 per cent to the loan companies.

Opponents of creating a big cash fund also claim that the loan companies are now borrowing school money deposited by the state in various banks on which the state is realizing but 4 per cent, thus defeating the very purpose of the farm loan department of the state. It is also urged that the expense of employing appraisors, lawyers to pass upon titles, and clerks to attend to the business of loaning the money to the farmers, eats up a goodly portion of the interest received by the state upon the school money thus loaned.

The friends of the Murray bill are depending on the influence of the school landlesses to carry the bill. They claim that the system of tenantry in the state must be stopped.

### CARD OF THANKS.

We wish to extend our sincere thanks and sympathy to those who so kindly assisted us in our recent bereavement, and especially do we thank the K. of P. Lodge.

H. A. Farthing and Daughter  
Mrs. James Cockrell,  
Mrs. A. J. Farthing,  
E. P. E. H. and Bess Cockrell,  
R. D. Cockrell and wife.

### DAVENPORT'S OPPONENT

H. E. F. Stanford, the republican candidate for congress, from the third district gave a stereopticon exhibition on the street here last Saturday night. On account of the Chautauqua being in session the street meeting was not as largely attended as it would have been.

## DEATH OF MRS. H. A. FARTHING

The entire community was shadowed with sorrow at the news flashed over the wires from El Reno last Friday morning that Mrs. Farthing, wife of H. A. Farthing of the M. K. & T. railroad force, had died at that place. She had left Vinita for El Reno not quite a week before her death to make a long delayed visit with some near relatives and when this visit was over she with her child was to go with the husband and father for a trip to relatives in Illinois. While at El Reno she was suddenly attacked by an old malady and an operation became necessary. It was thought that she would stand the operation very well, but she could not recuperate and on Friday morning after at 9 o'clock she died. Her body was brought home by Mr. Farthing and was laid away at rest Sunday afternoon, July 19. The funeral services were held at the Methodist church, the Congregational church building being too small to hold the many friends and acquaintances who gathered to pay a last tribute of respect to the memory of a valued friend. At the cemetery the ladies of the Congregational Aid and Missionary Society, of which Mrs. Farthing was an honored member, each gently dropped a sweet bouquet into the open grave, burying the coffin beneath love's sweet tokens. The pastor of the family, Rev. Jas. E. Pershing, assisted by Rev. Cantrell of the Methodist church, conducted the services.

A very dark complected gentleman of Vinita, "Mistah Jones" by name, refused to get into a James Crow car at the line Friday morning on the 3 o'clock a. m. south bound passenger train. At Welch the conductor sent for Mr. Ogier and a telegram was sent to Vinita for a deputy sheriff to meet the train at the depot and take charge of "Mistah" Jones, which was done. Later he was taken before the judge where he was assessed the minimum fine, \$25, for the privilege of riding 25 miles with white folks in a Jim Crow state. This is the first time since the first day of the Jim Crow law enforcement that there has been any trouble on this part of the Katy system and it is thought that when "Mistah" Jones has had time to balance his books and find out how far he could have rode in the Jim Crow car for \$25 he will more than likely not care to ride with the white folks in Oklahoma any more. —Welch Watchman.

Jim Biggerstaff, of the Great Western Type Foundry, was here Thursday interviewing the print shops.

Emmett Rea was here from Okmulgee Thursday visiting friends and attending to business. He is making money at Okmulgee.

## CITY DADS WERE BUSY.

The city council met Tuesday evening in regular session. Six of the eight councillors with Mayor Parks constituted the body. J. H. Crutchfield and Jno. K. Taylor being absent. The session lasted until eleven o'clock and several important matters went over on account of the hotness of the house.

Among the important matters was the reopening of bids for the construction of a sewer on the west side, it being practically determined to again advertise for bids. Dr. Day and his associate property owners affected made a proposition to the council to construct their sewer at a maximum price of 40 cents a foot without any extras. The usual appropriation for the running expenses of the city was made.

City Engineer Cullter made a report on the street, avenue and alley crossings being constructed by T. H. Hipple. The crossings already made will be taken up and laid according to specifications.

## SPALDING-M'GULLY.

Mr. Rollin D. McCully of Tulsa and Miss Bessie Spalding of this city were married at the home of the bride on North Second street Monday evening. The ceremony was performed by Rev. J. M. Cantrell, pastor of the Methodist church in this city. Mr. McCully is in the oil business at Tulsa where the newly wedded couple will make their future home. Miss Bessie has lived in Vinita from her childhood and has many friends here.

## STANDARD OIL VICTORY.

By a unanimous opinion of the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh district, the famous case against the Standard Oil company, in which Judge Landis fined the company 29 million dollars, was reversed and remanded back to the lower court for a new trial.

W. H. McCall of Wash was here this week attending court.

## SUIT WITH 11,000 PLAINTIFFS

Muskogee, Okla., July 20.—Claiming that all of the work done by the Dawes commission and the citizenship court in allotting the lands of the Choctaw and Chickasaw Indians has been done fraudulently and illegally, and that 11,000 claimants have been illegally left off the rolls. Balleger & Lee, Washington attorneys, argued today in the federal court for a permanent injunction restraining the secretary of the interior from completing the allotment of Indian lands. There are 11,000 persons named as plaintiffs in the suits and the defendants are the secretary of the interior, the chiefs of the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations and Mansfield, McMurray & Cornish, attorneys for these nations.

A temporary injunction was asked for at the last term of court at McAlester. It was refused. The argument on a permanent injunction was begun today. Judge Russell, assistant attorney general, Judge C. B. Stewart and Mansfield, McMurray & Cornish represent the defendants. They filed a demurrer on the grounds that the federal court has not jurisdiction in the case. The court has not reached a decision.

Washington, July 20.—Papers containing evidence in cases involving alleged illegal transfers of Indian allotments in Oklahoma were mailed from the department of justice today by Assistant Attorney General Russell at Muskogee.

## MIKE SHEEHAN DEAD.

Michael Sheehan died at his home on South Wilson street at 2 p. m. Thursday. Mr. Sheehan was one of the oldest residents of Vinita, coming here with the construction gang when the Frisco railroad was built, about 1871. He was 73 years of age had been in poor health for some weeks. The deceased leaves a widow and two sons, John and Tom Sheehan, both residing in this city. The funeral will take place today conducted by Father Charles of the Catholic church.

Shoe laces, polishes, arch supports, bunion protectors, and all other shoe store specialties. Milford-Berger Shoe Co.

Two four room cottages near coal chute for rent. See D. M. Marrs.

Governor T. M. Buffington and wife returned from Denver Thursday morning and report a fine time.



United States Senator Robert L. Owen, a Cherokee Indian by blood.